## A

# SERMON

PREACHED AT PAVLS,

VV herein is declared the necessity of growing in GRACE, and the goodly gaine that comes thereby, &c.

By RICHARD LEB, Preacher of the word of God at Wolnerbampton in STAFFORD SHIRE.

Cant: 4.16. Awake, O North winde, and come thou South, blow vpon my Garden, that the spices thereof may flow out: Let my beloued come into his Garden, and ease his pleasant fruits.



LONDON:

Printed by T. S. for Samver Man, dwelling in Pauls Church-yardar the figne of the Swap, 1625.

in a just pity of the mean provision if not the postatutori of to many thousand souls and a besire and come them tem comportately provided for , I reason of the said Prehend & a worth, breach Mr Lee, who should constantly reiche those, and lampelly in these that great and long reflectes people, which he halk Litterto performed with great matual contentiment and happy success histophall account of his own life . Works - fol 17/4 . p. ix Two frehend in the Collegiate Owned of Wolveshampton "way but mineter nobles her armoures", see At Hall's account of the letystern about it

#### To the VVorshipfull, and his louing friends, the Gentlemen of London, Benefactors to the Preaching of the word of God, at Wolson hampson.

Hen I was first importund to commit these my weake labours to a more generall view: I stood in the ballance, whether way to take: On the one side, I saw the world was sult enough of Books: I what good would my spoonfull doe in the Sea? and how vasts it were that my selfe, the least

of littles, should deliver knowledge to posterity, and that this wayward age, was so ill-disposed, that it could not abide ungues in vicere, we should scratch in the sore; as also the clowdie stile, and sumbling phrase I had writ it in, not dreaming the world should looke on it. Furthermore, I perceived on the other hand, that my scarce discerned sparke, gave a true light; and why may not some gaine a little?

I have read of night travellers, that have beene refreshed by the shine of Glow-wormes? Wee are borne in a time, wherein people love new varieties in apparell, diet, houses, yea, friends: why may not some see this, and be better for it? It is an ill winde blowes no man prosit; If but one gaine, and that a little, I have enough. A sicke or weake somacke, that at a table leaves dainties, and feedes of some course dish, the Cooke will not repent be sent it in.

Being moved by these things, I shought I could not doe better then to send it to your hands (although most of you heard it Preached) to expressemy thankfulnes for that love and liberality I have received from many of you: and now I am glad, God hath given me this opportunity to lay open to wide report that worthy worke you have done amongst ws. There is a cursed crying; Sin raignes in this age without controvel,

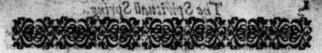
### The Epistle Dedicatory.

Hantsin

I meane the vaking away of Church-rites, called by Chrylostome, the downe of the Bride; robbing of God the Father, and the Church the Mother: Hence it is, that many braue wits turne to study Law, or Physicke, or follow some other callings, letting paffe facred Dininity, the Mistreffe of sciences; and the sethat have taken on them that worthy function, yet want of meanes, hath brought want of bookes and other necessaries; so that many stuffe their heads with cares in stead of learning; meane while the Gospell droopes, Gods wine-tree spreads not, Popery holds his ground, & duskie ignorance as a thicke mist remains undispeld in many corners of this King dome, for want of fun-beames. But the more we beate on this poynt, the harder mens hearts are; like the Catadupes, that are deafe by the fall of Nilus. Now bleffed be God, who hath so mightily wrought in you, to stirre you up to bee instruments, to spreade heavens sun shine, to those that fit in darkene fe; and have fent labourers into others vineyards, and paid them with your owne penny. Happie be the Angell that called on you, to send helpe imo our Macedonia: I meane, to establish the preaching of Gods word in that place where I now dwel. I never knew any part of this king dome, where Romes Inakie brood roofted de rested themselves more warmer and safer, and with greater countenance, then in our country. But I-make no question, it is begun already that as the day breakes, and the shadowes flye away, those owles will betake themseles to Iuie trees, and no longer dominere over the childish in experience of many people. Goe on worthy Gentiemen with such workes, they shall be your anum and crown. The Lord stir up your hearts more and more, or grant that others may glaffe themselves by you, and through your example, tread this holy maze. And fo 1 rest, committing my faint endeauours into your hands, destiring your fanorable acceptance of wonted love. I shal remain

Wolverhampton

Yours ever obliged, Richard Lee.



## The Spirituall SPRING.

2 PETER 3. Verfe the laft.

But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saniour Iefus Christ: to him be glary both no n and for energy Amen:



He words in hand are a fourraigne remedy against the deadly poyson of Apostacie. The Apostacies teles are little before, that in these last and worst times, many il-aduised men shall cast unsavery scornes in the face of Christian profession, which shall cause many to faint in their lourney to hea-

uen. A helpe against cold, is heate, against pouerty, is thristinesse; against going backward, is pressing forward. We have here preventing. Physicke against relapses, and rather doe water and manure Grace, then sow it. We vige not planting, but prospering, rather soode to nourish, then seede to beget. Here is a single ast, with a double object. A charge given, expressing the matter, Grow, the subject, in Grave and Knowledge, and so shuts up the Episse with a Doxologie at the source of it.

To Grow, is taken either continue, to augment those graces we have : or Diferete, to adde new to our store, as the same Apossle hath if, Chap, s. adde to your faith, vertue, che. Grace is taken eithen for Gods saven in himselfe, Eph. 1.5.6. this is that which makes we acceptable before him; Or for the gift of grace, Roming. In God as in the Fountaine, in vs as in Ti you, the Cisterne, he is the light, wee, are as sohn was, a burning Jenis or Jenis sampe, enlightened from that light. Grace, one for more, analoge numeri Grace, for Graces. Or rather it is your artis, where grace signifies more shen graces, confer then camps; as in the Scripture, si christian different is a larger word then men, Knowledge of Issue Christ, by cit.

a Senechdoche, to-know and believe in him. This is the fountaine and head of all Religions the end and perfection of the Law and Gospell, leb. 17, 3. Grace is fet before know. ledge, because a gracelette knowing to a fruitlette knowing.

Growth l'ère then must be an active motion, or opperation of graces of Gods spirit in yes, whereby they increase el-

ther by apposition or extension.

Dott. nabitur area. GUTTH.

You fee now which way the words looke, and what fmell -Hechofrofig- the flowers bound-vp will fend forth. The quinteffentiall do-Etrine, or maine path-I mult beate, is, that we mult not onely be carefull to have graces, but to increase in those when they are begun. God would have ve good Proficients in his. schoole, and to thrive vnder his hand, to mend our pace in our Christian iourney, to build woon the foundation already layd. Gods campeadmits of no dwarfes his Bourishing pastures of no stooklings, his family of no vnehrifis less in t with Grace as with Nature, in growth, which conflant age makes to beent a fland, and olde age makes to decay; but good men, Plalme 84.7. they gos from fromoth to frength. The Propheralludesto the growing of a childe, which as it muleis plies in yeares, waterh Bronger, Pros. 4.1 8, The suft Sineth more and more ento the perfett day. As in the treake of day, we have a fearce-different light, after a while, the morning thewes her white limbs through nights black curtains, and fo. by degrees wins the field of darknelle, & comes to wchriffall. Think years a golden fo Endo this the like manner fath the Wile man, doth graces luftre creepe on to perfection in Gods fervante. David compares a Christians goodnesse to. the foring time, Plulme o 2.14 when all but motion trees bud and blottome. In the Gofpell our Saulous, reprehends the Hoathfull fermane that puts not forth his selent. Againe, liecompares Grace vinto a graine of Mullandicede, which is a very little feede, yet in fome Countries is of fo great a Balk, that birds may build their peafts in it. Thus you lee God Handsforts, how holy Writblanch on it with fankling. race, for Graces. Or rather it is por erre, where about aired

Math 25. Math. 13,

De Syria Garth Guesan,

Now Reafon shall fland op bleede armadanan to defend is Larve briefly then confidential the Nevelley, fesonally,

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Single Street

this may

the benefits of growth, thirdly, the danger of not growing.

First, Nesellity pleads for it, because, first, weeknue no fet pirch in this life; we must rest when we are dead; here is our nonage, when we are at full age, to our inheritance we goe: This life is our pring-time; when we are ripe; God reapes vs into his barne: We are here as young. Plants in a Nurserie; when wee are growneyp, God will transplant vs.

Wee wencon a pace in cuill, in our voregeneracie, when wee ferred the diuell: have not wee more reason to runne fatter now, having a better Matter, a credibler service,

and greater wager free bei general asoft sent son at the

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3 All will be little enough in times of cryall: Defertions, temprations, lickneffes, croffes, and death, will looke vs in the face. The wings of our hope will bee cut off, and our prayers will have their moultring time, wee thall fight their against our felues like gyants: we gleane but happineffe now, wee thall mow mitery then; flore will be no fore, but a superfedens in all our tryals, let vs barrell vp plenty of grace, and feather our neadls, & prepare oyle in our lamps against three our neadls, & prepare oyle in our lamps against three our neadls.

Secondly, feethebenefits that accrew by our growing.

2 God fhalthaue much glory, lob. 15.8. Horem was Pa-

ther elerified, that to bear anuch fruit.

2 Themselves shall have much benefit by it; they that Luke's. 25. sow much shall respect much to increase in grace is to furnish our selves with faith against tryals, with toy in miseries, strength on thy death-bed, ability to pray, and the like: for he that doubled his succelents, was made Ruler over many things, Matth 25, 21, Hoother someth liberally, shall respective 2 Corosa, rally.

Others gaine by our wealth, and gleane at our haroeff, We shall by our good instruction and examples fer feathers to other folkes arrowes; when our hearbs are growne, we shall fraught our neighbours gardens; our light shall enlighten them, our lines shall share them, and set Conscience on working, for the fuller she Fountaine is; the bigger the

Thirdly, the danger of not growing.

Bz

Minime verd Donus eft, qui melier non vult Qui melior elle mon cupit nec eft bonnes.

z Such have no grace at all, onely guilded outlides. That feede which growes not, is rotten under the clode; He was never good that mends not : The goodnesse of the feri Ber. (9.91. groundis knowne by the crop, E Hel 16 918 54 11 de Agenton

2 Painted come ripens not : thefe diferace the mesnes God hath given them, as the Word and Sacraments; a leanefac'd scruant disparageth his Masters boule-keeping.

3 The curle of God lights on them. Wee fay if our children, corne, cattell, or graffe, profper not, that they are bewitched : What? a good Parme and thrive not ? furely Gods bleffing is not there. It is a heavy judgement on the enemies of the Church, so be as the graffe upon the benfe tops, which mithereth afore it grow up, Pfal. 129. 6. temetedone is adonested

Mon progredi eft 4 Not rogoe forward, is going backward; we cannot fand regredi. at a flay, either alcend or descend coldnesse lets incustomes and cultome caufeth defending of fin. At and the to this a

Vie I.

Zeph, 1, 12.

Let Coruteny be made in the first places let vs. Ministers try your sufficiencies; God will one day search with candles. Good gold feares not the ballence nor south-flone, but a bankrupt abides not the counting-booke, You have heard the fitnesse of this duty, let something be faid as a Jacabiflaffe to take the height of your graces. I purpale by Gods affiltance, first to spread a plaister, then to apply it, first to draw, then to thoote. A little to difoguer the markes of growing and then to lay my finger where it libarts. To deliber fomewhat as I may lay in complexe altogether; Know this, that growing children are hungry, they eate much and often; he waxesh but flowly that paneeth not after the word of God, the bread of life. Furthermore, note, that as the Philofopher faith; Augmentation keepes the fame species, when knowledgeturnes into idle disputes, and beleeving becomes prefuming, and a tender confcience fals to vaine kruples, us we fee in our bedlam Anabaptiffs, and phaneafficall Brownills, whole doctrine is criticall, and their converlations hypogriticall, here is not Augmentation, but Mutation, not cherishing but changing. A true grower addrs daily loose cubit to his flature, and in holding the truck, he beleeves she Philosophers proverbe, That he can never offend in the expelle. r Such

Axift de ortu dinterit, c. g.

excelle. Againe, Philosophy (sith, theremus) be an aptipeen circa qualitates portion in augmentation : It is valcemely and monthrough bonas nemo per. nature, for a childe to grow in armer onely, and notificate set in exergilegges, or in legs and armes, but not in body so to have mote knowledge, and leffe humility, to thrive in toy, and behides bound and hand-bound in good warkes, is neither kindly nor comfortable. Wee are to put forward the flowelt growing grace. In a word, fome tokens that wee are of a larger fize, are more accidentall maste in a thouland to oric but our feluex on others, or both our felues and others will feevs sallershen wit were, and our overtopping of those cuils, that were before the high forver So allo growers hall have tryale, the best schollers are most posed, the highest trees, subicel'i to windes, the divell and his agents affault the richell booties. The horrer the day lishe buffer the flyes o the most gracious the more oppoled and lelle effection of the world. Good men are like a Pyramis, the nearer heatien, the delle prophanencile, and to be a light to them that he system it But we may yot life while poyne move narrower and procoede zocumAcoflep by fleps Try how should bettered in ly, orluen as tall backe. It blots with blame agains suo? First, in Montification, doth thy bloud rife more to fee iniquity committed? Is it thy treater folace to fee superfittion, and prophanentle goe downe the winde ! Is thy hand and heart let against them? Doff thou more tragically butcher thing own; cuill, and is now the coreprisos foone cruthed Quemato profit lugron enough, Such are tenzen onet ilswi or niged vedali Secondly , In Viniferatory halt thou more spirituall jour-

nies to heaven ? Art thou earnefles in thy thought and fighes. Doth love frine for the Breugth of a Gyant If is be thus with thee; thou are a good ree that growes downswand in roote, and opward in body and branchs oils intel

Thirdly , flow is it with thee in holy duties & Doff thou fweepethy hearifeldaner, and adquire the inward man more then thou hadft wone before thou comment to Gods ordimances ? Arretton more fincere, retterene jarid deuenitsin iperforming thy feroicesched of old fill hough shithin knocke now at thy heart yeo enterin with this buffact brooks, thou ....

Continue and ... I hours

3

startions and more fiencely folish him, and refolish the Mintter Shall and sense to plow no mote on the lands indr fow on the waters, burlet him shoot and hit the white. But principally the fronger Christian, the mightier in Prayer. Louers loue meetings, eridabe peerer marriage, the oftner they meeter for in this Confeshe proverbe in true, After building comer begging and

-w Fourthly there is a femble mending in worker The fatter any one is in Grace, the more hee Iweates out good workes. He hath a more quickesede'd purpose en take all occalions of doing good, thee spreads his wings wider to tielpe more people, thee flies now like a lofty Hawke at the bell workes i hee shat before was all for good to mens bedies, which are workes good in their kinde, thefe he performes more then before but yes withall lookes higher, and labours to foread Goda Gofpells and to hoyilvo the fayle of drooping Religion, and with his Prayers, purle and power doeb his endeaupor to beste downe Popery ! and prophanenelle, and to be a light to them that fit mdarkenelle.

Antipodes, opposite to this doctrine, are fielt, luch as grow not a fecondly , or grow but in generall graces, thirdly, or luch as fall backe. It blots with blame , yea, bitterly bites Newpreficient Maby ard as ignorant, as kinfully as dull, as fruitlello , as twenty yeares agoof they goe round as a horse in a mill, they goe to the Church , to the Sacraments to family-prayers, runne vo and downe as Antsin a Mole-hill and doe nothing and verthinke they have Re-Quemodo prefi- ligion enough, Such are frozen on their dregs, twice dead and pluckey by the rootes. Nay, we have another generation of peoplethat entry the growing man. If any be like Saul among the people, higher by thehead and houlders in matters of Religion he is hared, as loytering fernants doe their fellower that openworke ithem + Dealine with his neighbours, as a Gardner, with his hedge, if any part of it out sproud the rest the cliptis downe. As Efees Foxe having loft his taile, would perfunde all other Foxes to cut off their railes. Paultelers that an binderer is the child of the deuill At forthofe filly ones that are over-learning and

Chould

cis fi tibi iam (ufficis Ber de confid.1.2.

U/c 2.

Ad. 13.10

2 Tim. 3.6.7. mener ablees come evale hypowledge of the cruth , but thinkes he

frontd be as Pegajar , have a golden bridle to flop his pollball to God: Thefe are as the proverbe is . Atonyer elist. Greci femper dren. Boyes and Trewants must be whipe. embrofe ele pueri, faith an' gantly observes in Luke 2 , the danger of the line in Egyptian, apad gantly observes in Lake 21, the danger of a fuckling, the Plat.in Times. ioy to haue it weined, and fo grow vp. Abraham faith free fealted when If sac was weined , but the child that was not weined was ouerlaid by the mother. Thou are a wicked man. In ceruitu impy Circular motion isthe motion of the heavens, but not the coloqui denanheavenlielt motion, nor the perfecteft. Fruitleffe dead trees frag. must be pluckt vp. God may very well gior thee vp to hardnesse of heart, and say as once a Captime did to one of his watch, finding him a fleepe, he flew thim, laying, Dead I found thee, and dead He leave thee; for being dead ipiritually , God may jully damne thee eternally. And flanding fo worle thou may it be, better thou canft nor hes The lying from garners moffe, the tranding poole mudde. The bird mounting vpon wing, is out of feare, but litting on the ground is in danger both of Inare and Fowler

This Atheilt may fland in his owne light, and fourne against our cruth with this poore objection; That grace is a limple effence, and not material, and to not capable of

growing.

Anfin. It is true thar a fimple effence growes not in God the fountaine, or as I may fay in the abitract, but lecondarily in visit may be further renewled; and plentifully bellow. ed. There is a spiritual growing, aswell as a materall and

Secondly, Others flop the mouth of Confeience, with this that they know more then they did, and can talke more of Religion then they had woor, and have more dexietity in prayer, and the like. Such must know that there are forme generall gifts of grace which God beflowes on vinegenerate. men as fuch as thefe are I have hamed. There is fauling graces, as morrification, godly forrow, humility, and the likes if thou mendit in thefelatt kindes theu art happy indeede, but if thou growell onely ih fuch graces, as Indas, Achitephel, or luch hypocrites may have, thy thew is more worth then thy fustance: As a Cynamon tree, thy barke is more worth then thy body. Thy flourishing is but as a:

Romes.

Korstary.

.s.17.57.80 TELCHESS.

quagmire:

Pfal 120.6.

quagmire growne ouer with greene graffe. Thy growing cannot laff, but as graffe on the houle top , to wither before it grow vp. A tree cut vp by the rootes, may fprout forth leaves for a while: A man after he is dead for a time his

nayles and haire may grow.

As for the former, they are but as a dog in a wheele; the melancholly Stoikes went beyond them: and thele of the latter lort; it may be euill, is at a fland in them, through educarion or want of occasion ; as fire may want fuell; but not one finne yer hath his fatall blow as Goliab had, nor fo much as a Bucke that hath his deaths woundsthough he be not yet hunted downe. I fay in all thy flourishing thewes thou deceived thy brethren with shadowes, and thy selfe

with linne.

Rome.

Thirdly, But this is not all, we have a disease called a confumption, wherein men grow, I confesse, but worse. Wee have Townes, Cities, Kingdomes, Persons, as the Crab-fish goe backeward. Shall we begin with the worlt firth. Rome was once famous. Her faith was floken of throughout the whole world, She was beautifull in her youth. Out of her loynes forung worthy Martyres, and renerend Ministers, but now fire is dropt into a crooked old age, a foolish dotage. She hath nourished in her bosome a broade of mis-begotten Controuerfies, and when wee have discovered their yong opinions and blinde errors, like Foxes that are hard hunted they (ceke intricate boles, and thorny buffes, they hide themselves in knotty diffinctions : So that as one faith, I have lought Rome in Rome, and could not finde Rome: Shewill have a Monopoly of heaven, and the priloner at the barre will be judge of the Law, She denies children for knowing their fathers will: She wil not onely forgive linnes, but maintaine finnes. The Stewes yeeld good tribute to the grand-mother of spiritual fornications. Her Subit Cts must not obey our Princes, but depole them, yea, in some case killthem, though the Pope grant no speciall license. Yea, sure of merito, faith Simontha. May not we fay of her doctrine as of Ieroboam; shields, he found them of filuer, and left them of braile; forhat now instead of loving her, wee mult

Quefini Romam in Roma, & non inueni Romam.

Gretfer p. 159. Bell de fummo Pontif.l.5 c. 7 Bannes in Tho. Aquin. 12.220. qu. 12.art. 2. Inft, Cath. 23. Ser. 12-13.

21 mgsuo

must leave her, and obey the charge given by the Prophet Ieremiah, Chap. 50. 14. Put your Selves in aray against Babylon round about : all yee that bend the bow Boot at her , pare no arrowes, for the bath finned against the Lord. Let this be Baby- England. lons disease alone. But as for the reformed Churches, let them ride on with their honour, and good proiperity have they: Farre be it from them with Hezekiahs Sunne to goe backeward. Yet if we looke into the generall decay of godlinelle and vertue, we may with teares lament and fay. That at the beginning men were Gyants in body, but now Gyantein linne.

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Common principles of honesty are become vnto many, Mali proficiunt as the writings on a tombe stone, by much treading almost bonidesiciunt, quite defaced. Wickednesse growes, goodnesse decayes, by Ber. this cloude we may prefage a ftorme.

But of this famous Citie I hope better things. Your London. workes have blazed all the Kingdome over, and displayed their branches into other lands, you have clothed the naked, fed the hungry, nurfed the fatherleffe. And best of all which is put into the mouth of posterity, you have bought eye-falue, and have fent it to the blinde, and have given Torches to them that have dwelt in the gloomy darkenelle of thicke ignorance. Oh let it not be faid that you retyre, or grownot on in grace and in charity as well as in knowledge. Let it not be faid that you feed the poore sparingly, and plentifully fealt the rich, who as Tennis-players, can bandy to you againe. As Rachel difliked her owne barrennesse, so did her husband : so doe you your fruitlesnesse. Principally have a care to to honour God with your fubstance, as to send faithfull labourers into his Vineyard. I haue observed my selfe dwelling in a Countrey where Popery and ignorance doth lamentably flourish, and their nells are for the most part in the Parish of some tenne pound Leuite, and wee shall often heare that in those places, some one or other is drawne to the superstitious faction; and no maruell when mens mindes are as tabula muda, fit for any impression, & so imbrace that Religion which is next to the, beit what it will. Many of you may fay with Danid; Thon tookest

tookest me from behinde the ewes ; you had poore beginnings, and now God hath spread your tables; and fild full your cups. This life is a journey, heaven our aymer be a viationin to poore Trauellers, let your purses hire Preachers, and fend the Gospell where it is not, that Romes superfitions. may bee baniflied from this Land, and thereby finne and finners may be dashed out of countenance. Truely I may lay as the Disciples did of the Atle, The Lord bath needs of bim, Many good desires are among your poore Countrimen, but in many places for want of preaching (the fuell for that fire ) all goes out : and as Hezekins faid , The children are come to the births, and there is no frength to bring forth. Poore foules are to wounded by finne, that they need lie under the Phylitians hand. The Properbe in this fenfe is falfe. Mifere viuit qui medice vinit; For man without a Teacheris as a blind mawithour a guide, faith Augnstin. And how can men but seep when the candle is out? Tolephus thought that when God shewed to Ifrael by Vrim and Thummim, whether they should goe to battell, it was thus, the Prich should put on the Ephod, & if the precious stones shined, they need not feare their foes; but I am fure, that if our pretious Rones thine, I meane Gods Word, we neede not feare Antechrists kings of the earth. Well then, though it hath beenefaid that Popery like Leah was bleare-eyed, yet fruitfull, and we faire as Rachell, but barren, Oh put you that long in our mouthes, that the barren be maketh to keepe house to bee a soyfull mother of children, then God shall have glory, wee comfort, you profit.

Ifa.37.3.

Homo fine dottore est of cacus sine ductore. Aug de temp. Josephus 1.3,c.9.

Pfal. 113.9"

Magistrates.

Quorum primus impetus plus erat quamvirorum, secundus minus quam faminarum.

Ad specimen non ad villnus Cic.de orat. But fince I have begun to speake, let me say on. May it not be said of some of our Magistrates executing of Iustice, as is said of the Frenchmens fight? At the first stronger then men, at the last weaker then women. Our Lawes the Axetree of our estate, on whose simmenesse wee moore, you whose bosonie the Church leanes, or either are as a rusty clocke that goes not, often time for stourishing, not for fight. If lawes be put in execution, alas, but for a while, we may say as Fabias said of Hamibals Armie, like a fire of straw, makes a great blaze, but is quickely out: like the leaping of the locust.

locuff that flirts vp a little , and quickly downe , or as the Locuffarum Planets in their Epioyeles, fomerimes afcending, and fome. Jainu Greg.

eimes descending.

Let not prophannelle get the vpper hand, nor Popery nor carnall fecurity, which as Promethem his vulture eate out the heart of Religion, wee may feare, wee may fay of them as men doe of fnow when it melts not, that it lies for more. For Gods fake you that are our Herculeffes against thele Gyants, bring downe her that fits as a Queene, let not the people fay of you, as men doe of a dead Hawke, a good one if the were alive. Let your faith out-looke your eyes,

and march on valiantly.

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As forvs Ministers, we should be knowne as Aarons rod Ministers. was, by bloffomming and fruit, and like Nabuchadnezzare Ouen, seauen-times hotter then others. God would have his mellengers as an Emperour would have his wife, without fault, or suspicion of fault. We should have life in our do-Ctrine, and do Ctrine in our life; but we have many like a Rauen, cryes on euery fleeple, Eaft, Weft, North and South, but having got her prey the lies downe vnder a funny banke, and yee heare no more of her; fo many Preachers spare no paines in feafon and our of feafon, till they be warme in fome fat Parlonage, then like Demas, they embrace this present world : as the Eagle they flie high, and have no eye to their nest. It is a judgement when the tongue cleaves to the Pfal, 137,5,6. roofe of the mouth. When like the Storke, haue a (weet voyce being yong, but a hoarfe one in oldage, they either Preach not at all, or as lightning, onely flasheth, but warmes not, and truely how can it be that the cold can warme others, and he that is dead can quicken others?

To end with private men. How many Professors of Re- Private ligion, with Lots wife have looke backe? let thefe know that Christians. many fet out of Egypt , that never faw the land of Canaan : some like lehn march furiously, yet fit downe and catch cold, and fallinto a confumption. Some now and then Imite finne a little, as a mother doth a childe that fhames her , but loue it well enough; others wound finne a little but will not kill it, When Elifba bad Ioafs take his arrowes & smite on the

2 King 13.19.

ground, and he (more thrice and staid. The man of God wat wrath, and (aid, thou fouldest bane fmitten fine or fixe times, then hadft thou smitten Syria till thou hadft consumed it: So if men would but give their corruption more deadly wounds, they need not be like a Hackney, that tires in the heate of the day, or a dull Affes trot, that will not last long, or hie the children of Ephrain, are armed, and carry bowes, yet turne backe in the day of battell; yea, deale vnfaithfully, and turne aside like a deceisfuli bow. We must sell to these finking-downe estates, that little decayes will proue great breaches; flidings leade to fallings; indifferency to fencelefnetle.

Fox Act, Mon.

Pial 78.9.

Ier.3. 2.

Hierome.

The more a man is inlightened, the worle hee is falling backe. A candle neuer enlightened finels not, but being enlightened, and blowne out, then it flinkes. The back-fliders in the leaventh perfecution, were punished with strange difcales and cuill fpirits. When Cranes flye backewards, it is a Alianl.3.6 13. figne of a tempelt. There is nothing but foule weather towards, for him that hath broken covenant with God. When loue-tokens are fent home, we fay a match is broken. The Lord dwels not in that heart, that hath the goodnelle remoued out of it. When we come into the Kings Pallace, and fee all the fumptuous Hangings taken downe; we conclude the King is removing of his lodging. When wee have fouldred God out of our hearts, our cafe is miferable : le is a wondrous danger of a heate to take cold. The Novatian herelie, a great feet, and many learned men were of them, held, that a revolter could not bee received againe: howfocuer I abhorretheir bleare-eyed error, becaule I here God fay, Returne O back fliding Ifrael, yet neverthelelle there is fuch intricate turnings, and Meandry windings, that few returne; none without much forrow and fmare , Origens lamentation is wofull, and may affright a faller-backe: fuch mens consciences, as a broken legge, wil paine in ill weather. Yet O Lord there is mercy with thee, that thou maift be feared. The chiefe Physician of the soule hath scored vs out a way for delivery, Rew. 2.5. firll, Remember whence then art fallen : lecondly, Repent, cry out against this fixue, bate it, loathe it : lastly, and doe thy first worke: never rest till thou, hast got thy former ftrength. To

To these I may adde three more; sirst, Doe all this quickly. A candle put out, blow the match quickly, and it may enlighten: wee are like sluggards, the longer we lye in bed, are vnwillinger to rise: Secondly, ill company is as ill aire, or ill dyet to a man in a consumption, which will hinder his health, not better him: Lastly, know God loves vs. not the worse, if we heartly mourne for our faylings; and flye to him. Christ calles his Spouse, faire, pleasant, O lone for delights Cant. 7.6. although Chap. 5. the had caught a fall and mar'd har face.

Having now as a Hawke Brucke my talents into the face of feuerall offenders; let me ring my filver bels in the cares of a growing good man. It is pitty hee thould goe without his due: If it be betweene thy fielh and spirit, as was betweene the house of Danid and Saul, 2 Sam. 3.1. Now there was long warre betweene the house of Saul, and the house of David, but David waxed ftronger, and the house of Saul waxed weaker and weaker: If thy flesh be tamer, thy spirit throngers to that thou can't feele olde age, as well by the ftrength of the foule, as the weakeneffe of the body: Thy Conscience, Faith, Loue, and all other graces are mightier, and as it were; vp in a swarme in thee . Thou art more watchfull then before: A childe, the older it growes, the letfe it fleepes. Thou that before wall afraid to follow God in the darke; but now art as a Sea-card needle, flandeft in the greateft compells ; we have for thee a neaft of young loyes, we open a mine of gold anto thee, and tell thee thou art a true Christian, croffes cannot crush thee: God bindes thee vp among his iewels, and hath) made more promifes to doe thee good, then ever hee made to hold ve the pillars of the world and w bemiand

Some it may be accused himselfe, alas, I cannot grow, oh would to God I were bener, ils roles do reliable de soles

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I answere, that. Grace growes but slowly, and loseth ground of time. Againe, the blade springs, whilst the husbandman sleepes; we may be better, and not aware of it. Also there are kindes of growing, trees one while shoote vp-ward, another while downe. An Apple may grow one while in greatnesse, after in goodnesse.

k-1.2 3160

V/e 3.

Obiect. 1.

Anim.

But

Obiett. 2.

But I am nothing like to forward as I was at my first conuctions my prayer is weake, my hearing dull. 1

Anfw.

What are thy cloathes too little for thee? a good figne of growing. But a man may abate in five respects of his former forwardnelle, and be no back-flider, Firft, fo farre as it was new to vs: the lame man, Alts 3 . leapt at his first curing, we must not suppose that he did alwaies afterwards in his goings, leape: The Ifraelites at their delivery out of Babylons captivity, their mouthes were filled with laughter, and their tongues with ioy; we may not suppose that they alwaies after did nothing but laugh: The Sunne is more acceptable at the riling, then at the letting. Secondly, lo farre as was to byends : we may heare a Preacher fet forth the bleffings that attend godlinelle; as Peace, Wealth, comfort in our Children, and the like : whereupon wee cheerefully fet about all Gods bulineffe; but our Lord feeing our vulitneffe to have thele outward bleffings, and fo cuts vs thert of them : wee may then abate of our forwardnetle, fo farre as thefe ends did four vs on, and be no back-fliders. Thirdly, we may flop fofarre as blinde zeale puts vs forward, and bee never the worfe. A good man in his conversion, his flesh is as the flesh of a young childe, very tender, being but as it were, newly wounded for finne. A childe in grace is as one in nature, that feares bug-beares and crifles, which men doe not. Now in what he was over-ferupulous, over-friet, too ftraight lac't, hee may abate vpon more knowledge, and yet stand his ground in christianity well enough. Fourthly, hee may af-Iwage of what he is at extraordinary times, in dayes of humiliation, and yet beno faller backe. Laftly, he may be overwhelmed with troubles or under a temperation, or in a spirituall defertion; he must not judge himfelfe to be, as he then feeles himselfe to be; for all this, it may be said of thee, even in this case, as Homer faid of Diomedes, a little man, but a great foldier.

Mengos pièr inv Sepanjaina pa-

Obiett. 3.

But I in truth am worse then I were.

It may be thou feelt thy felfe worse, which argues a better eye-light, and that a greater light is in thy heart. In the morning when the roles of the day begin to flower, all the

foule

foule corners of a house cannot be seenes but when the Sunno creepes towards the highest Zenith of heaven, every small spot is apparent. Or take it for granted, thou are worse indeed, are humbled for this, dost striue against it mightily, as a falling man carcheth at what he can; is there an amazed kinde of forrow upon thee for it? I must tell thee, shou maist be nearer delivery now, then ever Thedinels in the Gospell, never tortured the possesses when at their going out, I have knowness freeze the keenest against a thaw, and grow darkest towards breake of day.

But I should proue an ill Physicion, onely to bid you grow, and not set in at a dead-life. We need helpe to this businesse, considering that grace in man is like a tender out. Helpes to landish hearbe brought into our countries, we shall have grow.

much adoe to make it profper, Therefore,

pany, &c. Luillis a Rep-mother to good: as an Eafterne winde nips our bloffomes: as fickneffe that keepes downe a childe; to doth our transgressions stint and steene our graces, and make vs encapable of being bigger.

2 Get a good conscience that will cast up thy accounts every night, and reade thee a curtaine lecture for thy negli-

gence.

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3 Thou must have good store of humility; by descen-Disendende ding, thou shalt ascende the low vallet are ever trustfullest. ascendes.

4 Labour for spiritual wisedome to be led by the best presidents, to take thy worke out of the best Samplers, to possession write after the best coppies, to draw a line after the best singuand duers.

Painter.

Lastly, practice foure duties; first, Meditation; (econdly, hearing Gods word, thirdly, Prayer; fourthly, to make a good vic of afflictions.

Meditate on Gods SI Mercies.

3 The excellency of grace. 2 His all-feeing eye.

Meditate of Godefauour to our perform, to our king-dome. How many dangers have we beene lyable vinto, have not the Buls of Balan compaffed va about? yet may not our Church fing with the Church of If ack Many times bane they afflitted.

Pfal.129.2.4.

Pfal. 124.2.3.

afficiled me from my youth : 'yet they have not prevailed against me; the Lard bath cat alander the cords of the wicked : was not King Edward our Darine to build Gods Temple? As for Queene Maries Raigne, it is true: fucking the bloud of the Saints, yet but fhort, and out of these ashes had we a Phanix, the bloud of the Marryrs was the feed of the Church, Did not our late Queene Elizabeth , of thrice bleffed memory, account her felfe as a sheepe for the slaughter, yet did not the outline fixe or feaven Popes ? As for that cruell exploit of eighty eight : If it had not beene the Lord who was on our fide, they had [wallowed vs up quicke. What Processions and Masses, said and sung among them, hoping their superstitions would have given them the day? but our heavenly Father so apparently then tooke our part; that it is reported, the great Turke should fay, in that fight God was a Lutheran, Had not the Papille yet a further hope, when our Queene should dye, had they not Elaus thoughts, the dayes of mourning will come fhortly, and then, and then, we will flay our brethren the Protestants? But our Junne did set, and no night followed. As for that matchleffe plot, the Gunpowder-trealon; before, their practifes were fire and fagot; new, fire and powders they would have brought Doomes-day vpon three Kingdomes at once; Then had the longs of our Temples ceased; we might have named our children leabodr, yea, when our Noble Prince tooke his late long journey, they clapt their wings, and began to crow : but, Bloffed be the Lord, who bath not given us as a prey to their teeth.

Pfal 124.6. Abortu folis ad

& melioribus fatis,

If I should stand here a whole day, I could not recount Hesperium cubi- Gods goodnetse tovs. As the Cherubins wings hung ouer the Mercy-feate, fo doth Gods mercies over vs. Are not wee Pro molioribus referued for better times then our fore-fathers were? where hath the Gospell shined more then here? bath not a pillar of fire, and a cloud guided vs about threefcore yeares? As a manthat at the beginning of a cleare night counts the flars, but after a while, they appeare to falt, that he is confounded. Our stars, our Preachers; in the beginning of out late Queenes Raigne might eafily have beene numbred; but who can reckon vp our thining lampes now? So that wee ot

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may fay of our Land, as Silvine faid of Rhodes, It is alwaies in Semper in fole the Summes our Multard-feede is a spreading tree, and birds sita of. build in it.

What must we say to all this? Heare the Apostles advice, 2 Cor.7. 1. Haning therefore thefe promifes, let us perfect holinelle : what are ours, promifes ? nay, having thele performances, let vs perfect holineffe, and increase in godhnetfe. The bell hearbs grow in the fun-shipe: our Summer flowers are the best flowers; we must hatch and ripen too voder Gods wing of mercy, or we shall neverbe oughe.

2 Confider well of Gods all-feeing eye, and thou canft not but mend. The mafters eye makes the horfe fat, and the Fertillinus in afield fruitfull.

If a Magistrate would but well weigh, though he be a mi of Plin 1,18. God of men, yet he is a man of God; To are Gods; alas, but 6.6. metaphoricall Gods, a Dictie of some threescore and tenne yeares; and then he that whileome was a Judge, must him- wuper Judex felfe be judged; it would make him not winke in one cause, eram iam Iudiand have Lyncess eyes in another If our great men would as ante tribubut dwell on thefe thoughts, they would with flaming courage (peake for God on the Bench, and in the Parliamenthouse too.

3 Ponder well the excellency of Grace, and it will cause thee to flire up the gift of God, 2 Tim, 1,6, It establisheth the heart, and like an Atlas vnderprops vs in dangers, it changeth the minde, to that we shall turne no more to our former course of sinning, whereas, good nature, education, wisedome, cannot alter one quality, but so as a Wolfe in Sheepe skins, will turne to his oldeby as againe: The guilt of any thing will weare off: Riebes will take ber to ber wings as an Eagle, faith Salomon, on which if thou feel thy heart, thou hangel thy lewell at an Eagles legge that will five away with it. All earthly things in time of mifery, is as a heape of fnow, which melts away in a hot day, and makes the wayes miery; But grace is a cordial in every ficknesse, a house in every forme : In all troubles it makes the Church our Chayre, our Faith our ficalt, and Heaven our home. Who will not workehard for this wages, and fow much to reape much of this graine?

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The second dutie, as a polly to set thy clocke on going, is a diligent hearing of Gods word, that is our foode, the Per. 2.2. As new borne babes, defire the sincere milke of the word, that ye may grow thereby. There must be nutriment to sugmentation; manuring makes Plants stourish; feeding makes children and cattell grow. Gods word is our pases and mase, birth and breeding: and yet alas how sew respectit, and amongst those that are swift to heare, how many have we, that are like men sicke of an Atrophy, eate much, but thrive not? We heare much, but practise not slike a bul-rush, drie, though in a wet place.

2 Pet.1-2.

Bona mea dona sua. Aug.vel ipse velabipso Aug. de dolh. Christ. c. 31. Thirdly, prayer is a supporting some in this Building, and a good stake in this hedge; This the Apostle Peter practised for our instruction, and the rest of the Apostles together. Luke 19.5. Entrease our faith, for all comes from God that's good. Paulinar plant, and Apollo mater, but God gines the interest. Either it is himselfe, or from himselfe. Now prayer sets God on worke, and God sets Heauen and earth on worke, He hath pawn'd his word to heare vs. His Name is a heater of prayers.

Lastly, make a good vie of croffes and troubles; let them doe the worke they are sent for; plucke thy heart from the world, exercise shy faith and patience, let them drive thee to God rowze vp thy prayer, and chaine thine care to his hea-

wenly voyce that evenuments

Grace is like some kinde of Fowler, the fattell in the hardelt weather, as a sea-bird that builden her nest in a storme,

as a palmo-tree that is taller for prefling.

Virefeit vulnere virtus. Quick-Eleg-

I have now faid what I can in this point; Let ve heare the Apollic Pantipeake, Theft. 4. 1. Brethren; wee exhere you looke how your children grow, and will now and then call ve your bookes to fee how your eliques thrive, you will walke into your Gardens, and to your Country houses, to view the comming forward of your hearbes, trees, graffe, and corne; for Gods fake tooke to the level in the boxe, the fourier the bolome, God will toward you for doing your felues good, and crowne you for doing your owne works.

The Spiritual Spring.

19 make

into whose hands I commit you, the Lord of heaven make
you know the things that belong to your peace, & not outstand the day of your visitation. Now is our Spring-time.
When one is dead, his dayes of thrining are gone. There is lob 14.7.10
hope of a tree, saith lob, that it may frought, though it be can up,
yet by the sent of water it will bud; but man is sicke and
dyeth, and perisheth. Whilest we hauetime let ve
doe good, let our eyes be in our heads;
The Lord God make ve wife vato
Saluation. Amen.

FJNIS.